

15 April 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Meeting with Mr. John Taber, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee.

REFERENCES: a. Ltr dtd 5 Apr 54 to Hon. J. M. Dodge, Dir, Bureau of the Budget, from C. P. Cabell, A-DCI.
b. Ltr dtd 8 Apr 54 to Hon. A. W. Dulles, DCI, fr Rowland Hughes, Dep Dir, Bureau of the Budget.
c. Ltr dtd 10 Apr 54 to Hon. J. Taber from A. W. Dulles, DCI.

1. On 13 April 1954 at 2:30 p.m. Mr. Dulles and I met with Mr. John Taber, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee, and Mr. Wigglesworth, in Room P-3, Capitol Building.

2. Mr. Dulles discussed the exchange of correspondence (references a. and b.) with the Bureau of the Budget concerning the transfer of [redacted] from the Central Intelligence Agency to the Federal Bureau of Investigation during Fiscal Year 1955. Messrs. Taber and Wigglesworth indicated that they approved of this transfer and Mr. Taber stated that he would discuss the matter with Messrs. Cannon and Mahon on Wednesday, 14 April 1954, and that after they had concurred (which he anticipated they would) he would notify Mr. Dulles. He also stated that he would either give us a brief memorandum advising that the Committee had approved of this transfer, or, as an alternative, would initial our letter to the Bureau of the Budget indicating Committee approval. (No copies of any papers relating to this matter were left with Mr. Taber.)

3. Mr. Dulles then handed Mr. Taber his letter of 10 April 1954 concerning personnel statistics (reference c.) and pointed out that we had broken down these statistics in two ways; (a) a very abbreviated version by broad geographic areas, i.e., Western Europe general area, etc., and (b) a more comprehensive version listing personnel figures for the major countries within the broad geographical areas. At Mr. Dulles' request Mr. Taber retained only the original and one copy (Mr. Wigglesworth has the copy) of our letter and the broad geographical area breakdown. The more detailed breakdown giving personnel statistics by major country was detached and returned to my custody. Mr. Wigglesworth commented that the figure of [redacted] for Departmental strength seemed high to him but otherwise both he and Mr. Taber appeared to be completely satisfied with the information furnished to them.

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4. Mr. Taber commented to Mr. Dulles that he had had reports from two sources, one of them a Congressman, who stated that they had observed some of CIA's personnel overseas to be heavy drinkers and in other ways not a credit to the United States. (See memorandum to the Inspector General dated 15 April 1954 on this subject.)

5. Mr. Dulles inquired as to whether or not the Committee intended to adopt our suggestion that the CIA Contingency Reserve be placed on a "no-year" basis under the assumption, of course, that we will get a Reserve. (It will be recalled that we have about [redacted] of Fiscal Year 1954 money in "no-year" funds and that by continuing this, or at least [redacted] of it, they could cut our budget request by an equivalent amount.) Mr. Taber responded by saying that the Committee did intend to adopt this suggestion and informed us that our budget request had not been reduced. He emphasized that this was extremely confidential information and asked Mr. Dulles to hold it very closely.

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6. Mr. Taber then said that the RFC Building was being occupied by segments of several agencies which did not need to be located in Washington and wondered if this Building might meet CIA's needs. I commented that it was my impression that this Building had only about 350,000 square feet in it and would not accommodate CIA inasmuch as we would need a net of at least 1,000,000 square feet. Mr. Dulles, however, assured Mr. Taber that we would look into the matter without further delay. Mr. Taber implied that he would be willing to put some pressure on the General Services Administration if this Building would, at least partially, meet our needs. (Mr. Dulles and I stopped by the RFC Building en route to CIA and had a quick look, after which he requested that I explore the matter further, including the security implications.)

15/

L. K. WHITE
Acting Deputy Director
(Administration)

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